



# ZIKA PROGRAM

## GUATEMALA

UPDATED MARCH 2018

In February 2016, the World Health Organization declared that clusters of Zika-associated microcephaly and other neurological disorders detected in Brazil constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. USAID is responding to the Zika virus epidemic and its devastating effects in at-risk countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Program implementation began in June 2016 and is expected to end by September 2019.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By investing in Zika prevention, control and innovation USAID is helping strengthen Guatemala's capacity to respond to the current epidemic and future disease threats. USAID's focus is to protect individuals, particularly pregnant women, from Zika by:

- Controlling mosquitoes that spread the virus;
- Increasing awareness of how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection;
- Supporting health services for potentially affected women and children; and
- Working with USG counterparts to support disease detection and surveillance.

### VECTOR MANAGEMENT

Through the Zika AIRS Project, USAID is reducing populations of the mosquito that carries Zika by building national and provincial capacity to conduct vector control and surveillance for Zika and future mosquito-borne outbreaks. This work is complemented by USAID's partnerships with both the Pan American Health Organization that supports the Ministry of Health in adapting regional guidelines for integrated vector management, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with entomological surveillance tools and training.

## **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY**

USAID is integrating high quality, evidence-based Zika services and guidelines into Guatemala's existing family planning, antenatal, obstetric and newborn care systems. The Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) project works with the Ministry of Health and 47 health care facilities at the provincial, regional, and national reference levels to help providers integrate Zika prevention, diagnosis, and care for affected families into routine health services. The Support for International Family Planning Organizations II – International Planned Parenthood federation (SIFPO II IPPF) project improved access to health services for women of reproductive age in communities at risk of Zika and built providers' capacity to deliver quality Zika-related health and psychological support services. Meanwhile, UNICEF is building national systems to ensure access to quality care and support resources for families affected by Zika. Service delivery efforts in Guatemala receive additional support from guidelines and reference materials developed by the Maternal and Child Survival Program and from the procurement and delivery of condoms to prevent sexual transmission of Zika to pregnant women through the Global Health Supply Chain Program.

## **SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION**

As USAID learns more about Zika, it is working at the national, regional and local levels to inform people of how it spreads and how they can protect themselves. In 2016, the Health Communication Capacity Collaborative project conducted formative research and mapping of programmatic efforts to inform national Zika social behavior change strategies. The Breakthrough ACTION and Breakthrough RESEARCH projects are now continuing this work with the Guatemalan government to design, evaluate and implement high quality, evidence-based social and behavior change interventions for Zika. In 2016, SIFPO II – Population Services International (SIFPO II-PSI) launched a multi-channel mass media campaign and is disseminating educational materials aimed at reaching pregnant women and women of reproductive age with information about Zika and its risks.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

USAID is leveraging community partnerships and leadership to disseminate key Zika prevention messages and to battle *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes through low-cost interventions in homes and through community clean-up campaigns. The Zika Community Response Project, implemented by Medical Care Development International, builds capacity at the local government level and with community-based organizations, women's groups, youth organizations, schools and churches to respond to Zika.

## **INNOVATIONS**

In 2016 USAID launched *Combating Zika and Future Threats: a Grand Challenge for Development*, which provided funding to 26 potentially game changing solutions to Zika and future similar threats. In Guatemala, awardees Dimagi and TulaSalud tested innovative methods to identify and analyze data “cold-spots” before they become hot-spots for epidemics like Zika. Additionally, with funding from USAID, the CDC is conducting the following Zika-related activities with components in Guatemala: an emergency response needs assessment with accompanying technical assistance; vector control and surveillance capacity building; enhanced surveillance for neurological syndromes such as Guillain Barre; enhanced Zika surveillance and an accompanying cohort study to examine adverse outcomes associated with infection during pregnancy.

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